

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 771

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor Gloria Jean Sweet-Love, president of the Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Jean Sweet-Love is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sweet-Love recently marked her twenty-fifth year as president of the Tennessee State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the NAACP is a volunteer-based civil rights advocacy organization that has used its historic lawsuits and peaceful demonstrations to effect change in America; and

WHEREAS, she has served with acumen and alacrity as president of the Tennessee State Conference NAACP since January 1996; prior to her service in that role, she served as the West Tennessee vice president for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, during her exemplary tenure as state conference president, Gloria Sweet-Love established an Annual Legislative Day on the Hill and Race Relations Summit; she is currently initiating a program for at-risk students, Excellence and Equity in Education (EXCEL); and

WHEREAS, fulfilling the role of executive director as well as state conference president, Ms. Sweet-Love has concentrated on building capacity at the state conference level, chartering and reactivating branches, youth councils, and college chapters while also opening a state conference headquarters in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, she is a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP and currently serves as chair of the Southeast Region V NAACP Leadership Caucus; and

WHEREAS, a tireless advocate for education, civil rights, and social justice issues, Ms. Sweet-Love has also worked with Black/Brown coalitions, grassroots organizations, and labor unions in the political arena; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Sweet-Love traveled uncharted territory as the first African-American woman elected to the Haywood County School Board, the first African-American woman elected as president of the Tennessee School Boards Association, and the first African-American woman to be appointed to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission; and

WHEREAS, a retired systems administrator for a Fortune 500 company, Gloria Sweet-Love earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Tennessee State University and undertook graduate studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Sweet-Love has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the Sterling Award for Outstanding Leadership and Influence from the Business and Professional Women of Tennessee, the Outstanding Volunteer Ambassador award from the American Cancer Society, and the Benjamin Lawson Hooks Keeper of the Flame Labor Award and the Kelly Miller Alexander Award from the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sweet-Love's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Sweet-Love is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Gloria Jean Sweet-Love upon her twenty-five-year tenure as president of the Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP, commend her honorable and

astute service to the people of Tennessee and this country, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.